

Travel to Australia

Documents and identification

Keep your airline documents and identification in your personal carry-on luggage when you are travelling. These documents will help you to establish a new life in Australia so it is important that you keep them safe and carry them with you at all times.

If you have been issued an ImmiCard or a Document for Travel to Australia (DFTTA) it will verify your visa and be used as your travel document to Australia.

You must sign the signature panel on the front of the ImmiCard as soon as you receive it. Children under 10 years do not have to sign. You must present your ImmiCard or DFTTA at the airport or you will not be able to travel.





What to pack

There are two types of bags/luggage people usually use for travelling by aeroplane (plane): 'carry-on' bags (also called 'hand luggage') and 'check-in' bags or suitcases.

You can take one small bag with you onto the plane as carry-on luggage. You need to note the restrictions that apply to what you can take on the plane with you.

Your check-in bags go into the luggage area of the plane. They are labelled with your name and destination and you collect them again when you arrive in Australia. You will be issued with a receipt for each bag you bring in.

Each airline usually has a weight restriction for check-in luggage of 20kg for each person travelling. If you have more than the airline weight limit you will be charged an additional cost. If you have other large items you wish to take with you, for example carpets, talk to the person helping you with your travel. You will need to pay separately for large items.

In your carry-on bag you should pack...

- Your valuable documents, including your travel documents
- Your valuable possessions, for example, your jewellery
- Any personal care items you would like to use on the plane but liquids must be in bottles of less than 100ml.

Optional

• Small personal items like a book to read, your phone, or a jacket to wear to keep warm.

In your check-in bag you should pack...

- Suitable clothing for yourself and your family clothes that can be worn in warm or cool weather
- Comfortable shoes
- Personal care items such as shampoo, soap or deodorant
- Medications that you may need after you arrive in Australia.

Optional

• Small personal mementos such as photographs, letters and books (including your AUSCO pack).

What NOT to pack

Australia has strict laws on what you **cannot** bring into the country.

Do NOT pack in your carry-on bags or your checked in bags any of these...

- Agricultural products such as plants, flowers, soils, seeds, nuts or unprocessed tobacco
- Live animals or animal products such as any products that contain skin, feathers, fur, bones, shells, coral, bee products or used animal equipment
- Food including dairy, egg products, fresh/frozen fruit and vegetables
- Any meat or meat products
- Guns, explosives, or fireworks
- Weapons including knives, swords or guns
- Illegal drugs.

If you bring these things into the country and fail to declare them you may be fined, prosecuted and risk time in jail and a criminal record.

Travelling on a plane

The trip to Australia is a long one, so you should prepare for a long journey. Sometimes the trip is one long flight and sometimes there is a stop on the way to Australia where you will be required to leave the plane.

Before the trip

Travelling is tiring for everyone and can be especially difficult for small children. Before you begin your journey make sure the children have eaten something and used the toilet if needed. On a long trip, you will need to eat and use the toilet facilities on the plane. Be sure to bring nappies and a spare set of clothes for babies and young children.

On the plane

You can move around inside the aircraft if the seatbelt sign is off. If the sign is on, you must stay in your seat with your seatbelt on.

You will be served meals and drinks including juice and water and these are free. A plastic knife, fork and spoon will be provided with most meals.

If you cannot eat the food given to you, you can ask for fruit. You must leave any leftover food on the plane because you are not allowed to bring it through quarantine into Australia.



You are not allowed to smoke on the plane.

The air pressure in the plane can cause your ears to block. Swallowing, chewing and yawning can relieve the pressure in your ears. Feeding your baby before and during take-off and landing will make them swallow and will help relieve pressure in their ears.

The movement of the plane can cause some people to feel ill. If you think you are going to be sick there are paper bags in the seat pocket for you to use or you can use the toilets on the plane. For more information, go to:

- www.homeaffairs.gov.au/Trav/Ente
- www.agriculture.gov.au/travelling

Transit

Before reaching Australia, the plane may stop in one or more countries for a short time to be cleaned and re-fuelled. This is called a **transit** stop. During the stop, you will be asked to leave the plane. Take your hand luggage with you. It is possible you will need to change to a different plane, and you might need to walk to another section of the airport. The next flight is called a **connecting flight.**

Someone from International Organization for Migration (IOM) should meet you at the transit stop to help you. If they do not find you there and if you feel confused, ask airline staff to help you find where you need to go to wait for your next flight. This is called the departure gate. There are information centres and airline counters throughout the airport with people who can help you find your way.

Warning: Do not leave the airport during transit unless escorted by someone from IOM.

Arriving in Australia

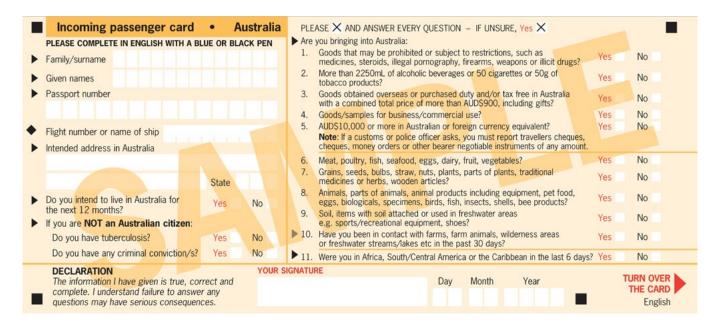
Passing through customs

When you get off the plane, you will go through immigration clearance. An Australian Border Force (ABF) officer will examine your travel documents to give you clearance to enter the country.

You will need to give the person at this desk:

- Your DFTTA or your ImmiCard
- Your incoming passenger card
- If you have a passport or a 'titre de voyage', you should present this here.

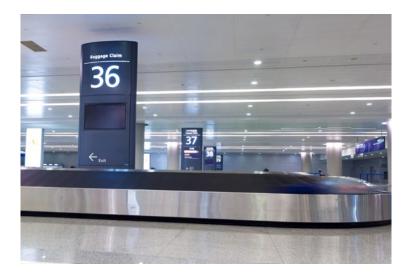
The ABF officer will check these and give them back to you.



Collecting your bags

After you are cleared for entry into Australia, you will need to collect your bags from a baggage carousel.

Often the flight number of the plane you have travelled on will be displayed above the baggage carousel which has your luggage. The sign may look like the one below.



If you cannot find your baggage, ask an airport official for help: 'Can you please help me find my baggage?' It is important to keep your luggage receipts as they will assist officials in locating your luggage.

Passing through quarantine

After you collect your baggage, you will need to take your bags through an ABF and Department of Agriculture and Water Resources checkpoint.

Follow the signs or follow other people to the checkpoints. An officer will take your incoming passenger card from you and keep it.

Officials may search your bags to see that you do not have any guns, knives, plants, food products, illegal drugs or other illegal goods. Trained 'Sniffer Dogs' are also used to check people and their baggage as they arrive. It is very important that Australia does everything it can to keep out serious pests and diseases that might damage our valuable agricultural and tourism industries.

If officials ask you any questions, answer them honestly and openly. If you need help with the language, ask for an interpreter. Say: 'Can someone help me – I don't speak much English'.

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